

# IDAHO ELECTRICAL BOARD MEETING

Thursday – May 10, 2007 – 9:00 A.M.

Red Lion on the Falls  
Bannock Room  
Idaho Falls, ID

*NOTE: The following report is not intended to be a verbatim transcript of the discussions at the meeting, but is intended to record the significant features of those discussions.*

## **Board Members Present:**

Tom Brown, Chairman  
Greg Ford, Vice Chairman  
Kreg Davis  
Lee Riley  
Al Frieze  
Chris Jensen  
Mark LaBolle  
Tim Phillips  
Dale Pippitt

## **DBS Staff Members:**

C. Kelly Pearce, Administrator  
Steve Keys, Deputy Administrator, Operations  
Jeff Fitzloff, Electrical Bureau Chief  
Al Caine, License & Compliance Program Manager  
Roger Gabel, Deputy Attorney General  
Renee Bryant, Administrative Assistant

### ◆ **Special Pre-Meeting – Negotiated Rule Making on Supervising Journeyman/Master Electrician Rules.**

The pre-meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m. by Chairman Tom Brown. The majority of the industry and public evidenced support of requiring a signatory master license in order to obtain a contractors license. The pre-meeting concluded at 8:55 a.m.

The regularly scheduled Electrical Board meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Brown at 9:06 a.m.

### ◆ **Approval of February 15, 2007 Board Meeting Minutes**

On behalf of the Telecommunications Coalition, Steve Keys requested the minutes reflect that the Coalition met with the board members immediately after the meeting.

**MOTION:** Mark LaBolle made a motion to accept the February 15, 2007 minutes with the change. Tim Phillips seconded. All ayes, motion passed.

### ◆ **Approval of Apprentice Curriculum**

Al Caine, Jeff Fitzloff and Burton Waite reviewed Electrical Training Network's (ETN) apprenticeship related training curriculum. Finding that it favorably compared to the National Standards and is similar in scope to Idaho's current courses; it is their recommendation that the Board accept their curriculum.

**MOTION:** Chris Jensen made a motion to approve ETN's curriculum. Lee Riley seconded. Eight ayes and one opposed, motion carried.

◆ **Policies for Approving CEU Courses and Instructors (Draft Administrative Rule)**

A draft rule was created in which to move the Division policies for approving CEU courses and instructors into Administrative Rule format.

For clarification purposes, Roger Gabel suggested the following be deleted in draft rule 12.07.b. In the first sentence, delete “on the appeal”; the sentence should read “Decision by the Board shall be final”. In the second sentence, delete “further”; the sentence should read “Any appeal shall be to the district court ...”.

**MOTION:** Kreg Davis made a motion to accept the rule as written with the exception of striking the words “on the appeal” and “further” from sub-section seven, paragraph b. Chris Jensen seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Telecommunications Coalition/Low Voltage (Update)**

In March of 2007 the Idaho Telecommunication Coalition formalized their organization; electing a Board of Directors and registering with the state of Idaho. Jim Overhoser, representative for the Telecommunication Board, solicited the Electrical Board’s consent to gain two seats on their Board.

**ACTION:** Board agreed to support legislation put forth by Telecom Coalition; adding one seat to the Electrical Board for a Telecommunication Representative.

◆ **Financial Report**

**MOTION:** Al Frieze moved to accept the Financial report as presented. Greg Ford seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Exam Summary Report**

**MOTION:** Al Frieze moved to accept the Exam Summary report as presented. Kreg Davis seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Compliance Report – Notice of Violations & Civil Penalties**

Al Caine read the violation codes. Through the Agency’s compliance efforts, there has been an increase in finding unlicensed electricians in the work force and a decrease in non-permitted jobs.

◆ **Discussion of Helper Classification**

Steven Kren, Steven’s Electric, addressed the helper category by distributing a handout to the Board. (Mr. Kren’s proposal will be posted on DBS’ website.)

The Board has asked the Division to post the following Board Packet procedure on their website: “One month prior to any Board meeting, agenda items need to be submitted to the Division of Building Safety’s Meridian office. Board packets are to be mailed two weeks prior to the meetings; allowing adequate time for the board members to review. Any item(s) submitted after the one month deadline will be addressed at a future meeting.”

**ACTION:** Steve Keys, with the Bureau’s assistance, is to prepare documentation on the “helper/assistant” category; addressing it at the August Board meeting.

◆ **Request for Licensing Hearings**

Al Caine updated the Board on the Agency's current cases and legal procedures.

◆ **Oregon Reciprocity Agreement**

Oregon electricians, unable to pass the Oregon Supervising Electrician exam, are applying for the Idaho Master Electrician exam. Once passed, they reciprocate to Oregon where they continue to work.

The Oregon Electrical and Elevator Board would like to review Idaho's Master Electrician exam to determine whether the exam is substantially similar to Oregon's Supervising Electrician exam.

Al Caine and staff will revise the Oregon/Idaho Reciprocity Agreement for clarity OR create verbiage for an Administrative Rule.

**ACTION:** Al Caine, with the Bureau's assistance, is to present a "proposal" at the August Board meeting.

◆ **Master License for Contractors**

After extensive discussion throughout the State, the Board has agreed to pursue the draft rule on Master License for Contractors; exempting the industrial accounts.

**MOTION:** Lee Riley made a motion to move forward with the draft, excluding industrial accounts. Chris Jensen seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Contractor's Exam**

Tom Brown is concerned about the high pass rate of Electrical exams. Kreg Davis suggested adding "cash flow" questions to the contractor exam.

On May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, a Hearth Specialty Exam Workshop will be held at DBS' Meridian office. The afternoon of May 16<sup>th</sup>, Al Caine and Steve Keys will meet with ICC, to discuss the Electrical exam.

◆ **Apprentice Competency Exams**

A committee, comprised of Al Caine, Burton Waite, Greg Ford, Jeff Fitzloff, Jim Weimer, Mark Bernsen, Mark LaBolle and Tom Brown, was created to develop Electrical apprentice competency exams.

Greg Ford and Burton Waite will meet with the committee members prior to Electrical's August Board meeting.

**ACTION:** Greg Ford to address this issue at the August Board meeting.

◆ **Executive Session**

**MOTION:** Al Frieze made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss employee evaluation issues as allowed by section 67-23451b, Idaho Code. Mark LaBolle seconded. All ayes, motion passed. Roll Call Vote: Chairman Tom Brown-yes, Kreg Davis-yes, Gregory Ford-yes, Lee Riley-yes, Al Frieze-yes, Chris Jensen-yes, Mark LaBolle-yes, Tim Phillips-yes, Dale Pippitt-yes.

Chairman Tom Brown made the following statement, “Let the record reflect the Board Members have returned back to open session following an Executive Session during which we discussed employee evaluations as allowed by 67-23451a and b of the Idaho Code.

◆ **Inspection Tags (Proposed Rule)**

Jeff Fitzloff updated and reformatted the current rule. Tom Brown suggested Section 015 be revised as building contractors are not issued electrical permits.

**ACTION:** Roger Gabel to review the proposed rule and bring a revised draft to the August Board meeting.

◆ **Legislation Update**

The MOU between the HVAC, Electrical and Plumbing Boards is now in statute.

House Bill 140, which recognizes the authority of the Administrator to promulgate rules relative to the operation of the agency, was approved.

Legislation to limit the liability of the Division of Building Safety relative to inspections was pulled. This legislation will be addressed prior to the 2008 Legislative Session.

With the adjournment of the Legislature, the 2006 International Building Code, Residential Code and Energy Conservation Code are effective.

◆ **2008 Code Update**

Jeff Fitzloff presented two draft rules. The rules would allow the Division to adopt the 2008 National Electrical Code (NEC) and remove the section on smoke detectors.

**ACTION:** At the August Board meeting, Jeff Fitzloff to inform the Board on the publication status of the 2008 NEC.

◆ **Inspection on Valid Permits Only**

Effective immediately, the Division has a new policy in which the industry must purchase a permit prior to an inspection. Every effort will be made to inform the industry of this change.

◆ **Fee Schedule**

Two drafts were presented by Jeff Fitzloff. Draft A is on residential fees and is based on square footage. Draft B is on industrial and commercial fees and is a percentage based on the selling price of the completed installation.

**ACTION:** Jeff Fitzloff to revise the language of the drafts; bringing them back to the August Board meeting.

◆ **Final Inspection Before Energize Service (Property Owners)**

Jeff Fitzloff presented the Division’s new procedure on the finalization of inspection before energizing services for property owners.

♦ **Policy on Handling Complaints**

The Division's policy on handling electrical safety complaints was presented by Jeff Fitzloff.

♦ **Department of Public Works Proposal Presentation**

Kelly Pearce discussed the Governor's proposal to move Public Works under the Division of Building Safety.

♦ **Old/New Business**

On July 1, 2007, several Board positions are up for reappointment.

Chris Jensen has accepted a position with the Division of Building Safety as the Consultation and Outreach Advisor for eastern Idaho. Kreg Davis thanked him for his service on the Board.

Steve Keys gave a brief description of the Division's Outreach program.

**MOTION:** Chris Jensen made a motion to conclude the Board meeting at 2:50 p.m. Mark LaBolle seconded. All ayes, motioned passed.

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TOM BROWN, CHAIRMAN  
ELECTRICAL BOARD

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C. KELLY PEARCE, ADMINISTRATOR  
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

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DATE

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